(c) whether there is any crisis facing HLL;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have given top priority to purchasing of HLL productions;

(f) whether the Hindustan Latex Limited products are pending;

(g) if so, the total quantum of products still pending; and

(h) the step being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). The Hindustan Latex Limited has contemplated setting up of a project for the manufacture of Bulk Drug - 'Centchrome'.

(c) to (h). The Company depends heavily on procurement of its products by the Government for the National Family Welfare Programme. Therefore, continuance of the present policy of Preference is critical for the Company. Presently, Purchase Preference Policy is being followed by the Ministry while placing orders. The inventory of production with the Company will be fluctuating from time to time.

Major Projects from Brahmaputra Board

3911. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state.

(a) whether Brahmaputra Board has prepared some major projects covering the Brahmaputra and the Barak river systems; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to implement these projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). Brahmaputra Board has undertaken survey and investigations for several major multipurpose projects on the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries and also on the Barak river. The Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources has so far accorded technical clearance to the Tipaimukh project on Barak and Pagladiya project on Pagladiya river, a tributary of Brahmaputra. In respect of Pagladiya project, environmental clearance has been received recently. Planning Commission is being approached for issuing investment clearance.

Filaria Patients

3912. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of filaria patients in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the effective steps taken by the Government to control this disease and the extent to which these steps have proved successful;

(c) whether Government propose to launch a National Filaria Control Programme to control the spread of this disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) State-wise estimated number of Filaria patients as recorded in 1995 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (e). The National Filaria Control Programme (NFCP) has been in operation to undertake vector control activities and provide passive treatment to the patients reporting to the Units. The Programme is a Centrally sponsored Programme operated on a 50:50 sharing basis.

As a result of the measures undertaken, it has been reported that the micro-filarial rates in 74 per cent of towns and disease rates in 69 per cent of towns showed reduction where control measures have been in operation for more than 5 years.

STATEMENT

Statewise estimated number of filaria cases as on 31.12.1995

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ Union Territories	No. of filaria cases (In million)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.48
2.	Assam	6.09
3.	Goa	–
4.	Bihar	5.95
5.	Gujarat	0.14
6.	Karnataka	0.08
7.	Kerala	2.45
8	Madhya Pradesh	0.08
9.	Maharashtra	0.17

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ Union Territories	No. of filaria cases (In million)
10.	Orissa	1.51
11.	Tamilnadu	1.30
12.	Uttar Pradesh	7.52
13.	West Bengal	0.03
14.	Pondicherry	0.01
15.	A&N Islands	–
16.	Daman & Diu	–
17.	Lakshadweep	–
18.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	–
	Total	20.81

[Translation]

Treatment of Cataract

3913. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the successful treatment of cataract is the change of lens;

(b) whether most of the victims of the eye diseases are poor rural people and they are not able to change the lens;

(c) the expenditure to be incurred on cataract operations of one eye and both eyes in Government hospitals and in private hospitals separately; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any concrete steps to provide the facility to the poor people to get the lens changed free of cost or on low cost basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir. Intraocular lens (IOL) implementation is a modern and improved technique for treatment of cataract.

(b) As per the survey conducted in 1989 blindness is more prevalent in rural areas. Intraocular lens implantation facilities are not freely available in Government Hospitals in rural areas due to lack of trained surgeons and other sophisticated equipment facilities needed for Intraocular lens implantation.

(c) Cataract Operations are being done free of cost in all the Govt. Hospitals. No data regarding expenditure on cataract operation in private hospitals are available.

(d) Under World Bank Assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project, which is in operation in seven States, it is proposed to get those patients operated for cataract and implantation of Intraocular lens free of cost who are medically recommended and also cannot afford the cost of lens.

Express Highway in Gujarat

3914. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA:
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on Ahmedabad-Vadodra Express Highway in Gujarat has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) The road works of the project in question has temporarily been stopped due to contractual problems but the bridge works are currently in progress. It is now proposed to take up the balance work on B.O.T. (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis.

[English]

Centrally Sponsored Scheme

3915. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Central Health Schemes currently in operation and the progress achieved thereunder, scheme-wise;

(b) the details of significant achievements and shortcomings recorded on objective assessment of implementation of these schemes; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet such shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL